The Gfebs Times

The latest on the Army's new financial ERP

GFEBS ★

What a Difference a Year Makes!

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — This time last year GFEBS was just beginning the Build Phase of the Release 1.2 (R 1.2) solution. GFEBS team members worked with Army Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to finalize the GFEBS solution by mapping Army business processes to the GFEBS functional design and then built these elements into SAP. One year later, the SAP system has not only been built out to support the Army business processes, but the R 1.2 solution has also gone live to over 200 users. Throughout the past year, the GFEBS Project continued to build and test the Release 1.3 (R 1.3) solution and design the Release 1.4 (R 1.4) solution.

During the early months of 2008, GFEBS built out the R 1.2 solution at a noteworthy pace, preparing for a system test and pilot training phase that began during the spring of 2008. GFEBS team members, SMEs and volunteers from various Army organizations met in Kingstowne, VA over the summer months to attend pilot sessions of the GFEBS training curriculum. These pilot training attendees then used hundreds of test scripts and scenarios, as well as the knowledge they gained during training, to test the system's functionality. After several months of extensive testing, the system proved to be fully functional.

More than 200 end users have successfully been working in the live GFEBS system for over three months now. The Project "go-live" on 1 October 2008 to the Ft Jackson Installation Management Command (IMCOM) garrison, as well as to related activities at Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), The Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (OACSIM), IMCOM Headquarters, IMCOM Southeast, Army Budget Office (ABO), Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army – Cost and Economics (DASA-CE) and Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army – Financial Operations (DASA-FO).

GFEBS Site Visits

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — Part of the GFEBS Deployment Strategy is to conduct Site Visits nine to12 months prior to deployment to all affected organizations. In just three days, the GFEBS Project is able to accomplish much during this event: 1) introduce GFEBS to projected end users; 2) validate User Role Assignments with supervisors of end users; 3) survey site hardware, software standards and identify any necessary updates; 4) meet with senior leadership to build sponsorship; and 5) solidify the requirements within the GFEBS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). "This comprehensive communications tool accomplishes a variety of tasks in a very short period of time. The Site Visit establishes a common ground between GFEBS and the affected organization and prepares both parties for the next several months, which will be filled with extensive deployment related activities", stated Mr. Len Cayer, GFEBS Deployment Division Chief.

GFEBS has conducted Site Visits to the majority of the Wave 1 organizations scheduled to go-live on 1 April 2009, and is currently providing Site Visits to Wave 2 organizations. In order to complete Site Visits at all affected organizations within a short time period, the GFEBS Project has established "Site Visit Teams" that travel together to each site. Each team is made up of representatives from the Deployment, Functional, Technical, and User Roles Teams. A member of the Deployment Demo Team also attends to provide a live demonstration of GFEBS and its many capabilities. Mr. Allen Whiteacre, GFEBS Deployment Team Lead for Accenture (Systems Integrator) noted that, "the live demo allows end users and their supervisors to see firsthand how GFEBS will reduce manual data entry and improve reporting and cost analysis for the Army."

Ms. Kristyn Jones, ASA (FM&C) Director, Financial Information Management and COL Pat Riley, GFEBS Director of Training and Deployment, have attended Site Visits to convey the importance of GFEBS to the FM&C leadership.

GFEBS coordinates each Site Visit with the primary Point of Contact (POC)from each organization to ensure the date and time of each session is convenient for the organization's members.

It is important for Army organizations to work with the GFEBS Project to coordinate a date for their Site Visit when they begin the deployment readiness process approximately one year prior to their scheduled deployment date. The POCs should also communicate any special requests for information or meetings to be conducted during their organization's Site Visit.

For questions about the GFEBS Site Visit and its content, please email *gfebs. info@us.army.mil.* ∎

Supervisor Workshops: Key to Success

Supervisor Workshops are informative, one-day workshops conducted at deployment locations by the GFEBS Team. They help supervisors understand the linkages between business processes, required training, and roles. The workshops provide hands-on practice for supervisors to understand how to best prepare their end users for the changes that will come about with GFEBS.

During the workshop, supervisors learn how to conduct "change discussions" with their end users. Supervisors are required to conduct change discussions with the end users they supervise to explain the benefits and impacts of GFEBS, new roles, and the end user's required training. End users that received change discussions in Release 1.2 had a higher success rate on GFEBS training courses.

Workshops occur approximately four to five months prior to deployment. Look for information on upcoming Supervisor Workshops at your location, and encourage all supervisors to attend.

Here's what a Wave 1 supervisor are said about the workshop:

"Very informative. (The workshop) provides a solid base to continue to learn the process."

Completed Site Visits

Wave 1

Ft Jackson (Mission)

Ft Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield

Ft Benning

DFAS-Rome

DFAS-Indy

ACSIM, ABO, DASA-CE, SAFM-FO, IMCOM HQ

Wave 2

USP&FO Frankfort, KY

Fort Knox

Fort Polk

Fort Rucker

Fort Bragg
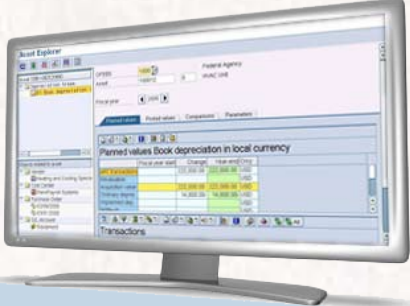
Fort Sam Houston (MEDCOM)

Fort Campbell

Wave 1 Training Registration

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — GFEBS is working to open introductory Computer-based Training (CBT) courses for all end users. A notice from GFEBS will be sent out when training is available to each organization' Point of Contact (POC).

The GFEBS Project is excited to bring Wave 1 end users a restructured program that adds flexibility in completing training for GFEBS user roles. The new Training Strategy includes four delivery methods:

1. Computer-based Training (CBT)
   - ❖ Delivered by a Web-based interface
   - ❖ Accessible via the Army Learning Management System (ALMS)

2. Instructor-led Training (ILT)
   - ❖ Delivered by an instructor in a classroom during a pre-defined training schedule

3. Virtual Instructor-led Training (vILT)
   - ❖ Delivered by a remote instructor to students in classrooms at the site or at the user's desk during a pre-defined training schedule
   - ❖ Utilizes Collaborative Army Training (CAT) software for delivery

4. Train-the-Trainer (T3)
   - ❖ Site T3 Candidate trained as business process course expert and instructor

   - ❖ Delivered by the T3 Trainer at the user site

If you have questions or concerns regarding GFEBS ALMS access, course registration or course completion, please email *gfebs.info@us.army.mil*. ∎

GFEBS Training Tip

Access to the Army Learning Management System (ALMS) requires an AKO username and password or CAC card.

Wave 1 Sites/Organizations:

- ✪ Ft Jackson, S.C.
- ✪ Ft Stewart, Ga.
- ✪ Ft Benning, Ga.
- ✪ Installation Management Command Headquarters (IMCOM HQ)
- ✪ Installation Management Command Southeast Headquarters (IMCOM SE HQ)
- ✪ Organizational Segments "Slices":
  - ❖ Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)-Indianapolis, Ind.
  - ❖ DFAS-Rome, N.Y.
  - ❖ Army Budget Office (ABO)
  - ❖ Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM)
  - ❖ Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Cost and Economics) (DASA (CE))
  - ❖ Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Operations) (DASA (FO))
  - ❖ Forces Command Headquarters (FORSCOM HQ)
  - ❖ Training and Doctrine Command Headquarters (TRADOC HQ)

2009 Training Schedule

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
■ Training enrollment; Change Discussions conducted ■ Computer-based training (CBT) conducted	■ Instructor-led training (ILT) conducted		■ On-site support; additional training as needed				

Year Makes Difference

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The GFEBS Operations and Support (O&S) Team has been on hand to assist end users since the R 1.2 deployment in October, resolving issues as quickly as possible. The O&S Team provides support through the GFEBS Help Desk and job aids, tutorials, and frequently asked questions (FAQs) found online. The O&S Team also maintains a comprehensive communications plan, which includes weekly O&S meetings, bringing together the lead Point of Contact (POC) from each deployment site and GFEBS leadership to discuss any major issues or concerns. The team additionally distributes emails about system outages, updates made to the production environment and job aids to assist end users in performing daily job responsibilities.

In 2008, the GFEBS Project focused on developing the system's functionality; however, a number of GFEBS accomplishments for 2008 extended beyond the functional arena. GFEBS was awarded Milestone B in March 2008, a large feat for any Department of Defense (DOD) project of its size. Additionally, in October GFEBS was awarded the 2008 Army Acquisition Excellence Team Award in the categoryof "Information Enabled Army". "This award is a direct reflection on the Project's outstanding support of the Soldier and the Army's Business Transformation efforts," said COL Simon L. Holzman, GFEBS Project Manager.

The year 2008 was a success for the Project, but 2009 is bound to bring even more success for GFEBS and its stakeholders.

On 1 April 2009, GFEBS is scheduled to deploy R 1.3 functionality to the first wave of organizations. This implementation will be followed by six additional waves of deployment over the next three years. Also this year, GFEBS will begin its case for Milestone C, and will announce plans on the Federated Approach, specifically on how GFEBS will fit into the Army's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Integration Strategy.

The accomplishments and successes of the GFEBS Project are made possible with the assistance, coordination, and knowledge of its stakeholders. The GFEBS Project thanks all of its stakeholders for their dedication to this implementation, and wishes you a prosperous New Year. ∎